

From: Rodney M. Jokerst
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 2:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I truly fear the day when I will have to pay MICROSOFT a monthly subscription just to use the internet. The way things are going now, all internet providers will soon require you to use microsoft products just to log in. Once they own the internet it will be practically impossible for anyone to take it back. I use microsoft products only when I absolutely have to. The primary reason that this is required is because they have closed standards so noone can create a word processor that reads word file correctly for example. If they were made to publish in FULL the specs for applications such as Microsoft Office I would have no reason to complain. I have no problem with the whole world standardizing on one document format. I do have a problem with the company not allowing anyone to compete with them by creating a competing product that uses this document format. The internet was created with open standars so that business with different interests could create compatible products yet still compete with eachother.

It is painfully obvious that Microsoft has a stanglehold monopoly in the operating systems business. Please do SOMETHING about it...please? I belive that forcing them to open up their API's would be the best solution to this problem...allowing competitors to at least have a fair chance to create a competent product.

thanks

rod